Episode 17- For Ted and Jason

scene 1- ext. belmark lanes, 4/8/2011, 10PM

I pull up in my Prius. LEE, PHIL, TRAVIS, and LEE are in the car with me. Further down, TED (in a SEVA shirt) and JASON are standing by their car with some beers. We join them.

PHIL

TED!

PHIL goes up and jumps on TED, giving him a big old arm and leg hug.

TED

Oh, god damn it...

He puts PHIL down.

PHIL

How are you? You look exhausted.

ted

Yeah... washing dishes all day-

mike

Harumph.

PHIL

What?

MIKE

So Ted gets a big hug just because and I don't get anything?

PHIL

Yeah, but... he's my husband.

MIKE

Oh yeah. That. Big deal. I went out and shaved my beard and you didn't even say anything!

PHIL

You shaved? I didn't notice...

MIKE

How can you not notice? Like half my face is missing.

TED

You look good, Mike.

I show signs of flattery.

MIKE

Thanks, Ted. See? He appreciates me. He knows how to treat a gentleman.

TED

Damn straight! Want to have an affair?

MIKE

NO.

TED

Aw, WHAT? Why not?

MIKE

I don't think Melissa would approve.

jason

Oh yeah. How are you two doing?

MIKE

Excellent, thanks. Though I feel kind of bad lately I've been doing a bunch of work so she hasn't gotten a lot of attention-

jason

I'll give her attention.

ted

Yeah, I'll spend some time with her! If you remember, she started something she didn't finish-

MIKE

NO SHE DIDN'T!!! THAT WAS NICOLE!!!

bryana

Wait... what?

PHIL

Melissa stuck her finger up Ted's butt once after he sat on her.

TED

Yup.

BRYANA

Oh my god! Mike, you let her do that?

MIKE

HEY LET'S GO IN! I mean... that karaoke isn't going to sing itself.

JASON

We can't go in yet. We're not drunk enough.

MIKE

They have a bar inside, you know-

TED

Yeah, with $4 beers. I don't think so.

JASON

Here, I'll get you one, Mike.

He goes to the car and digs out a beer.

JASON

Lucky you. You got the last one.

MIKE

Oh, well, you can have it.

JASON

Nah, it's fine. I'm working on this.

He shakes a bagged up whisky bottle. Then he opens the bottle.

MIKE

Thanks, Jason.

JASON

No problem. It may be a little skunky, though.

MIKE

Well... that word's not going to scare me off.

JASON

Ah of course not.

MIKE

Actually, hold onto it for a sec. I gotta pee.

I hand it off to him and run inside. Jump cut ahead to me coming out. People are packing up.

MIKE

What's going on?

PHIL

We got kicked out. A security guy came out and saw us drinking. So we're going to another bar.

MIKE

Eh... you know I think I'm gonna go home. I got a LOT of work to do this weekend, so I want.

TED

Come on, stay out a little longer.

MIKE

Not tonight. Maybe tomorrow if I get enough work done. I'll let you know.

TED

Oh... alright. But you better come out tomorrow.

MIKE

I'll try. Later, guys.

I wave goodbye to everyone and they wave back. As I head to my car I pass one fleeting glance back at them all, especially lingering on TED and JASON.

scene 2- int. mike's living room, 4/9/2011, 1AM

I'm passed out at my computer desk. MEL walks in and sighs.

melissa

Oh, Mike...

intro sequence!!!

scene 3- int. mike's bedroom, 4/9/2011, 10:30am

I'm asleep, cuddled up next to MELISSA. My phone starts to go off.

MIKE

Mmph...

I mute it without looking at it.

MELISSA

Hey, don't you think you should pick that up?

MIKE

No... it's the wrong number.

MELISSA

Come on, lazy. It could be important.

MIKE

No. There's no reason to call me at this hour on a Saturday.

MELISSA

Don't you think whoever's calling realizes that?

MIKE

Look, I'm going to be working nonstop all day and probably all day tomorrow, too. Before that, I just want one more hour of sleep. Or three-

The phone rings again.

MELISSA

Mike...

MIKE

Ugh... fine. But this better be important grumble grumble grumble.

I pick up the phone. It's PHIL.

MIKE

Hello?

PHIL

Hey... do you want to come over to my parent's house?

MIKE

...Well, right now... sleeping...

PHIL

Yeah, I know. But... there's bad news.

I shoot up.

MIKE

Oh. Oh, well... yeah, I'll be right over. Er... what happened?

PHIL

I think you should come over first.

MIKE

Yeah, okay. Just let me take a quick shower and I'll be right there.

PHIL

Okay.

MIKE

See you soon...

I hang up. I spring to my feet and make a B-line for the bathroom. MELISSA follows.

scene 4- int. mike's bathroom, 4/9/2011, 10:40AM

I'm taking a super speed shower. MELISSA is in there too, eyeing me with a look of concern.

MELISSA

What do you think it was?

MIKE

I don't know, but whatever it was Phil sounded pretty shaken up over it. So you were right, it must be pretty serious. Unless this is some kind of stupid prank.

MELISSA

Yeah, heh. Stupid...

Beat.

MELISSA

Do you think... I mean, Ted and Jason were drinking a lot. And you know... when they drink too much, they're not exactly the most-

MIKE

I really hope not. But...

MELISSA

But yeah, maybe it's just a stupid prank...

I emerge from the shower and get dried off as fast as possible.

MIKE

Ready to go?

MELISSA

Just a sec.

She magics her clothes on and dries her fur.

MIKE

Hey that was pretty cool. Can you do that except you do all my homework-

MELISSA

No time to joke, let's go!

We rush out.

MIKE

Worth a try.

scene 5- int. mike's car, 4/9/2011, 11AM

I'm driving the car. MEL's in the passenger seat. We have our hands clenched tight on the divider thing. We pull onto the street, and I take a minute before preparing to get out.

MELISSA

How are you feeling?

MIKE

Nervous. I mean... I'm not really sure what I'm going to hear or...

MELISSA

Well, whatever it is, I want you to know that I'm here for you. Alright?

MIKE

Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA

No problem. Hey.

She turns my head towards her. We kiss.

MELISSA

I love you.

MIKE

I love you too.

I start to get out. MEL comes out too.

MIKE

You're coming in? Isn't this usually the time where you poof away?

MELISSA

Not today. I said I was gonna be here for you, remember?

I smile at her and take her hand. We approach the house.

scene 6- int. phil's parents' house, 4/9/2011, 11AM

I knock at the door. PHIL'S MOM lets me and MELISSA in.

phil's mom

Hey, come on in.

I enter, sensing the atmosphere of tragedy. I turn into the kitchen and I see PHIL, BRYANA, ROY, TRAVIS, LEE, ROY'S PARENTS, and PHIL'S STEPDAD all seated at the table, silent.

MIKE (V.O.)

Oh no. Where is Ted?

I approach slowly. MELISSA follows. Everyone gives me a bittersweet smile, though they're unable to hide the pain in their eyes. BRYANA stands and gives me a quick hug, then offers me the empty chair next to her. I sit down. MELISSA stands behind me.

roy

Hey, Mike.

MIKE

Hey, Roy. We missed you last night.

ROY

Yeah, wish I could have gone. But... work.

MIKE

Yeah, I know what you mean.

I nod. Silence.

MIKE

So... what's going on?

PHIL'S MOM

Last night, Ted and Jason-

MIKE (V.O.)

AND Jason? Oh god...

PHIL'S MOM

-got into an accident. And unfortunately...

MIKE (V.O.)

They're in the hospital. Tell me they're just in the hospital.

PHIL'S MOM

They didn't make it.

A moment of silence. I look down at the table and cover my mouth with my right hand, processing the information I just heard. MELISSA puts her hand on my left and I squeeze it. My eyes move around the table. Everyone's eyes are red; for the most part they've cried their share, though PHIL and ROY are still teary and a bit sniffly. Eventually my hand moves from my mouth to covermy eyes and I begin crying. ROY gets up.

ROY

Come here.

We embrace as I continue to let it out. After a few seconds I reach across the table for PHIL's hand and I hold it. I take a few deep breaths and I dry my eyes off. MELISSA rubs my back. I try to appear more or less composed, though I'm clearly still shaking.

MIKE

How did it happen?

PHIL'S MOM

We don't know for certain. All we know is that they missed a curve and hit a wall.

Pause.

MIKE

Was there anyone else in the car with them?

PHIL'S MOM

No. They were the only people involved as far as we know.

Pause. For whatever reason I take my hat off and put it on the table in front of me, staring at it. People around the room laugh sympathetically. I glance around as they do.

MIKE

What?

PHIL

It's just funny. You know the news is serious when the hat comes off.

I smile.

MIKE

Yeah, well I just... I don't know. Didn't seem appropriate.

PHIL

It's fine. It lightens the mood.

ROY

You should wear it to the funeral.

Laughs.

MIKE

You think?

PHIL

Ted would appreciate it.

PHIL'S MOM

Well, I don't know. Because you know, you look very nice without the hat. Very handsome.

I blush.

MIKE

Well, shucks... but wait, are you saying I'm not handsome WITH the hat?

PHIL'S MOM

It's not that. You just come across as more cute. But hey, if that's the look you want to go for, it works.

I smile. Another pause.

PHIL'S MOM

Can I get you anything? Coffee? Iced tea? A snack?

MIKE

I'll take a coffee. Lots of cream and sugar, please.

She heads over to the coffee maker, pours a cup, and prepares it how I requested.

MIKE

Who else knows about it?

PHIL

Just everyone in the room so far. And their parents, of course...

MIKe

So nobody else in the group knows about it yet?

PHIL

Nope.

PHIL'S MOM puts the coffee down in front of me and puts a hand on my shoulder, which is still shaky.

PHIL'S MOM

There you go. Are you feeling alright?

MIKE

I'm a little better, thanks.

PHIL'S MOM

Aw, you're shaking.

MIKE

Yeah... still a little shocked, I guess. Coffee will calm me down.

I take a sip of my coffee.

MIKE

Better. Okay, I'm going to step outside for a minute. Get some air and make a few calls...

People give me their silent consent. I get up and walk out. MELISSA follows.

scene 7- ext. phil's parents' house, 4/9/2011, 11:20AM

I lean up against the house, staring up into the sky contemplating life and all that stuff. MELISSA leans up next to me. I hold her and we share a tender kiss.

MELISSA

How're you feeling, champ?

MIKE

Not very champ-y. I don't know... it's weird. I mean, when I saw him last night, I had no idea it'd be the last time. You know? You just have to wonder what would happen if I'd stayed out. Maybe nothing would have changed, but...

MELISSA

Who knows? If there's anything positive I can say about all this... well, I'm just glad you weren't in the car when it happened.

MIKE

Yeah... can I ask you something?

MELISSA

Anything.

MIKE

Is it bad that when Phil called me the first thing I thought was something happened to them?

MELISSA

Well, I'm the one who said it-

MIKE

Yeah but I was thinking it.

MELISSA

Right. But no. Ted and Jason were always the high risk type, let's face it. So you weren't bad for thinking that.

MIKE

I was just right...

She gives me a reassuring caress on the cheek.

MELISSA

On the bright side, this'll give you an excuse to not do your homework this weekend.

I can't help but give a bittersweet laugh.

MIKE

You're right. You know though... I'd rather do the work.

MELISSA

I know you would.

We share a sad smile and embrace.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

I'm still there, staring off down the street. MELISSA is hugging me from behing.

MELISSA

Who should we call first?

MIKE

People in the group. Starting with the people who are in town, I guess.

MELISSA

Makes sense.

I call MICHAEL. He answers.

MIchael

(over the phone, duh)

Hello?

MIKE

Hey Michael... are you doing anything right now?

MICHAEL

...Sleeping...

MIKE

Yeah, I hear you. Can you come over to Phil's parent's house first chance you get? There's... been some bad news.

MICHAEL

...Alright. I'll be over as soon as I can.

MIKE

Alright. See you soon.

Hang up.

MELISSA

That wasn't so bad, was it?

MIKE

No... but that was the easy one. Now I gotta do it for everyone else.

Montage sequence of me calling everyone. First CONOR...

conor

Oh, my god! Are you serious? When did it happen?

MIKE

Earlier this morning. I just found out about it a little bit ago.

CONOR

Wow... I mean, I've known Ted since elementary school, and Jason too... it's just... shocking.

MIKE

Yeah... sorry I couldn't call you under better circumstances.

CONOR

No, thanks for letting me know. I appreciate it. I just wish I could be in town.

MIKE

Well, funeral services are on Friday. Think you'll be able to make it?

CONOR

Yeah, definitely. I'll have to talk to my professors, but there shouldn't be a problem.

MIKE

They'll understand.

CONOR

Yeah.

MIKE

...So, how've you been otherwise?

Next VERONICA.

VERONICA

Hey, I can't talk for long. I'm about to go to a competition for marching band.

MIKE

I know. But...

Cut ahead to the aftermath.

veronica

(sobbing)

Thank you for telling me. I need to go now.

MIKE

Alright. Sorry I had to call you right before the performance...

VERONICA

No, thank you... I... I'll call you when I get back.

MIKE

Alright. Good luck.

Hang up. Exasperation. JOE time.

joe

...When did it happen?

MIKE

This morning. Around 5 or so. Sounded like they were the only ones involved.

A moment of pained silence.

MIKE

Funeral services are on Friday if you can make it out.

joe

I have a play...

MIKE

Oh. Well that's alright. Summer is soon we can all pay them a visit then.

JOE

Okay.

MIKE

Maybe we'll all go and see your play one of these weekends though.

JOE

If you can make it out...

MIKE

Alright. Well... I'll see you some time soon. Break a leg and all that.

I hang up. ROY comes out of the house.

roy

Want to come with me?

MIKE

Where are we going?

roy

Run some errands. I'd rather have someone come with me...

MIKE

Sure. Let me just tell everyone inside first.

I head back towards the house.

MELISSA

Can I come too? I don't want to be alone either.

I stop.

MIKE

Hey Roy, can Melissa come too?

roy

There's not much room in the back. She'll have to sit on your lap.

MIKE

Oh, that's fine.

He and I share a smile.

scene 8- int. roy's car, 4/9/2011, 12:30Pm

ROY, MEL and I are driving along playing the radio.

roy

I just didn't think it would happen... and this just came at an awful time. I mean, there's no good time, of course, but now after all the progress we were making in the band we're going to have to start at square one. I don't even know if we can continue. I mean, how can we? How can I? ...What am I even saying?

MIKE

Say what you gotta say. I do think the band should take some time off before deciding where to go next. Though I think you guys can overcome this if you pull together.

ROY

Yeah. I don't know. Some time off would be nice. Time off from everything...

A DAY IN THE LIFE comes on the radio. ROY turns it off as we pull into a parking spot.

MIKE

No, leave it on. It's good pick-me-up music.

roy

Eh... my ex was obsessed with 'em. Besides, we're at Seva. I'll be right back.

MIKE

Okay. Hey Roy... I'm looking for a summer job. Any positions open at the restaurant?

roy

...Dishwasher...

He tears up and heads to the restaurant. I realize what I just said. MELISSA caresses my face.

MIKE

Oh... oh, damn it... what was I thinking? Damn it...

I start tearing up. MELISSA embraces me as I start to openly cry.

MELISSA

Shh... it's okay. You were just asking about a job for the summer.

Beat as I continue to sob on her shoulder.

MELISSA

And look on the bright side, at least they have a position open.

I can't help but smile.

MIKE

Damn it, Melissa...

MELISSA

I love you.

MIKE

I love you too.

We hug it out and nuzzle cheeks.

sence 9- int. mike's parents' house, 4/9/2011, 6PM

I'm having dinner with DAD and MOM.

mom

Are you doing alright?

MIKE

Yeah. I mean... part of it hasn't hit me yet, part of me is already used to it. So... I'm getting by.

mom

What are the others up to?

MIKE

Around and about. Ted's parents are having a dinner but it's for members of the band only.

dad

That's understandable. If something happened to you or Liz I wouldn't want a whole lot of people around. I mean... that's the worst thing that can happen to a parent. Your mom and I love you kids more than anything, and

whenever something like this happens it just makes me afraid of losing you guys.

MIKE

Well... don't worry. I don't have any plans to die any time soon.

dad

Good.

We get up and have a family hug.

scene 10- int. mike's old bedroom, 4/9/2011, 11PM

MELISSA and I are lying in bed together. I have my laptop out and I'm checking all the Facebook "RIP" statuses and I see some pics of people painting "the rock" in their memory. I close my compy and we lie back.

MELISSA

What are you thinking about?

MIKE

Life. Just... this whole day has really made me reconsider the whole notion of life and death.

MELISSA

How so?

MIKE

It was just something I took for granted and didn't really appreciate. I mean, this isn't my first encounter with death. You know that. But this was just... so sudden, so unexpected... well, I mean, not for it to happen today-

MELISSA

Yeah, I got it.

MIKE

Right. But also... just seeing how deeply it's affected everyone who knew the two... it makes you really realize how much we really mean to each other, you know?

MELISSA

Mhm. Now you see why I freak out whenever you get all morbid and talk about hurting yourself?

MIKE

Yeah. And for the record... I'm glad you did.

Lick. She licks me back. We cuddle up and look into each others' eyes.

MELISSA

Can I tell you a secret?

MIKE

Sure.

MELISSA

...You know when Nicole stuck her finger up Ted's butt? Well... that might have been me.

MIKE

Huh... Can I tell you a secret?

MELISSA

Yeah.

MIKE

Right now I wouldn't care if you had sex with him.

MELISSA

That's good...

MIKE

Hey. What-

MELISSA

Just kidding!

She swoops in for a quick kiss. We snicker for a second, then we kiss again slow and tender.

scene 11- int. church, 4/15/2011, 11AM

All of TED and JASON's friends and family are there. ALGERNON is wrapping up an acoustic cover of BROKEN DAYS to a teary-eyed audience. The REVEREND steps forward as they finish.

reverend

Beautiful, guys. Now, I'd like to say a little something before we part today. Some people would like to have you believe that the acts of today were the acts of a just God as part of his greater plan. Well, I've known Ted since he was a boy. I remember the first time he was baptized, he was so excited he just had to go home and tell everyone about it. He always struck me with his compassion, sensitivity, and love of life. And in my eyes, there's no reason this horrific accident was part of the plan of a merciful God. This was not something he or Jason or any of you deserved to suffer in the eyes of God. And I know it may be tempting to blame God or Satan or some other entity, but sometimes in the chaotic and unpredictable world in which we live, things like this happen outside the influence of the supernatural. So instead of assigning blame to forces outside of our control, we need to instead focus on what we can control. Being there for each other and helping each other in this time of mourning.

I'm visibly moved.

scene 12- ext. graveyard, 4/15/2011, 3PM

PHIL, CONOR, VERONICA, BRYANA, TRAVIS, MICHAEL, LEE, ROY, JOE, MELISSA and I are gathered around TED and JASON's graves.

PHIL

We should sing something. It'd be appropriate.

Pause.

MIKE

Tonight I'm gonna have myself / a real good time. / I feel ali-i-i-ive...

Everyone else joins in. We sing an a capella version of Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now", with a tear or two rolling down a few cheeks. Zoom out into the clounds and fade into...

outro sequence

For this outro sequence, Phil's song "Home" plays over a montage of memories with me, Ted, and Jason. This includes Metal Frat night, four loko night, the window thing, getting kicked out of the Motor City Casino, and the night before the accident. Also included are scenes of us just driving around, hanging out, and enjoying a moment of silence together.

Dedicated to Ted Weindorf and Jason Robertson. Rest in peace.